

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Quinn

BA-III

AND/OR COMMON

Sweet Air

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side Sweet Air Road, 0.12 east of Manor Road

CITY, TOWN

Sweet Air

Y VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

 STRUCTURE

 SITE

 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS

 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

 UNOCCUPIED

 WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

 YES: UNRESTRICTED

 NO

PRESENT USE

X AGRICULTURE

 COMMERCIAL

 EDUCATIONAL

 ENTERTAINMENT

 GOVERNMENT

 INDUSTRIAL

 MILITARY

 MUSEUM

 PARK

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

 RELIGIOUS

 SCIENTIFIC

 TRANSPORTATION

 OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Peter J. Woytowicz

Telephone #: office 828-5543

STREET & NUMBER

204 East Joppa Road

CITY, TOWN

Towson

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

County Courts Building

Liber #: 4961

Folio #: 684'

STREET & NUMBER

401 Posley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

Maryland

STATE

21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES SURVEY: BALTIMORE COUNTY

DATE (ONGOING SINCE 1964)

QUINN (SWEET AIR) entered 7/29/65 as BA-III

 FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

Maryland

STATE

21204

DESCRIPTION

34-111

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mr. Bayard Turnbull, in describing the structure as it was and what he did in the restoration, states that it is one of two houses on the Western Shore of Maryland erected in the early days with pattern brick. The bricks were made locally and the wood used in the building was cut from the woodland on the place.

The outside walls of unusually large brick, laid in Flemish bond, have a very agreeable texture. The brick vary in size sometimes as much as an inch in length and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in other directions; the average size, however, is 2 x 4 x $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. The window arches are of smaller ground brick, lighter in color. There is an interesting continuous diamond pattern of dark headers on the west gable end, and a modified figure-of-eight pattern running across the south front in the second story as shown by the drawing of this feature.

There is a moulded brick water table all around (Avolo and Scotia), and a band course at the second floor level, a soldier course of over-burnt headers between Avolo brick top and bottom. The cellar the house has is under the dining room and staircase where there is a pair of deep arched recesses of brick, separated by an 18 in. pier under the dining room chimney breast.

The east and west main gable ends are faced with barge boards having an outward flare at the bottom. The main cornice is of interesting detail with dentil moulding at the bottom and a course of delicately profiled modillions carrying the crown members. The effect of this unusual cornice, as seen in the old photograph, is that of a lace border drawn across the house.

The cornice of the gable or pediment over the north front porch, is heavier than the horizontal cornice, does not member with it, and has no dentils or modillions. This, combined with the stiffness of the pediment and its rather large wheel window, tend to give it a somewhat ungrammatical flavor; but such departure from classical dogma and Vignola's rules, give the front a certain quaintness and charm.

The north porch is new, designed in attenuated Colonial Doric in the spirit of the old house; the triglyphs of the frieze giving an appropriate accent to the entrance. The steps and border of the porch floor, all with moulded nosings, are composed of marble steps taken from a block of old houses formerly on Saratoga Street and lately demolished. Their mellowness merges with the old brick of the walls.

(more)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

In the south entrance doorway treatment, the consoles, console bands, frieze and cornice are new, while the architrave (with croisettes) and the six panel door are original. The steps and platform are from the same Saratoga Street house as those of the north porch. Originally there was a two story rather shallow (8 feet) porch of square pillars, running across the south front of main building, whose rood must have tied in with the main house rood, though at a different pitch, but sufficient information to reconstruct it accurately is lacking.

Photographs exist showing the house with east and west wings. The east wing was a story and a half with dormer windows and a fine heavy chimney, traces of which showed both outside and in. The previous owner raised the height of this wing to full two stories, to gain more space in the upper story. The north cornice was apparently re-used, but the south cornice had disappeared and the present one was duplicated from the north front. (The west wing has disappeared).

The main staircase is a feature of the house. To be noted are the wide rail, the turned balusters, the rather austere newels with unusual head treatment, and more elaborate stair end brackets, but particularly interesting are the varied treatments of the chair rail easings up the stair walls in combination with fluted pilasters. In the attic hallway there are ardl slats in place of the turned balusters. The planners of this staircase did not trouble to see to it that there was head room up in the attic for those who do not duck will bump their heads against the roof slope.

Throughtout the main portions of the house the windows have inside wooden shutters with raised panels, flush moulded, folding into splayed window recesses. These shuttered window recesses contribute greatly to the character of the interior. The size of the principal panes of glass is 9 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. and the main windows, 6 feet high and 30 ins. wide, with 18 panes. The first floor ceiling in 14.ft.

Since the 1937-38 restoration, a small kitchen wing has been added to the East wing.

--excerpts from 1943 article by Dr. Ronald T. Abercrombie

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
— PREHISTORIC	— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	— COMMUNITY PLANNING	— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	— RELIGION	
— 1400-1	— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	— CONSERVATION	— LAW	— SCIENCE	
— 1500-1599	— AGRICULTURE	— ECONOMICS	— LITERATURE	— SCULPTURE	
— 1600-1699	X — ARCHITECTURE	— EDUCATION	— MILITARY	— SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
Y — 1700-1799	— ART	— ENGINEERING	— MUSIC	— THEATER	
— 1800-1899	— COMMERCE	— EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	— PHILOSOPHY	— TRANSPORTATION	
— 1900-	— COMMUNICATIONS	— INDUSTRY	— POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	— OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		— INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1751-1772

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house called "Sweet Air" stands on a landgrant called "Quinn," an Irish name that reflects the first owner, Thomas Macnemara, who had 500 acres of this previously unsettled land surveyed in 1704. Macnemara was an Annapolis lawyer and never occupied his property here nor his tract in the heart of present Towson called Gunnor's Range. Following his death, the inventory of Macnemara's effects showed some minor possessions at his "quarter in Baltimore County." His son Michael mortgaged Quinn to his relatives Charles and Daniel Carroll. In 1751, Charles Carroll foreclosed on Quinn and had it sold to Roger Boyce.

Roger Boyce had left Calvert County, becoming sheriff of Baltimore County. He was also a justice of the peace and a vestryman and warden of St. John's Parish at Joppa. Quinn cost him \$2 per acre, which would indicate that the tract was probably a good farm. Boyce was probably the builder of the Georgian house called both Quinn and Sweet Air. His will of 1772 proves that his dwelling plantation stood on the Quinn survey. His inventory was made in 1774 and the various possessions were found in such rooms as:

chamber over the inner room	the old hall
the passage chamber	the back room
the passage upstairs	the kitchen
the hall chamber	the Quarter
the hall	the cellar
the passage	

Boyce's heir sold the tract including the dwelling house tract, specifically mentioned in the deed, to Ignatius Fenwick in 1785. Fenwick was "guardian of the heir" of Charles Carroll, Jr. of Duddington. He apparently bought the place in trust of his ward, and in 1788 conveyed the 500 acres of Quinn to the young Henry Hill Carroll. (1)

Henry Hill Carroll came into possession of 796 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres and made Quinn his home; he married Sara Rogers, and lived here until his death in 1804. The 1798 tax list of Gunpowder Upper Hundred showed Henry Hill Carroll with:

- 1 Brick dwelling house, two stories high, 53 by 22 ft. in good repair and well furnished
- 1 Piazza 8-53-two stories

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(See Continuation Sheet, Item 8,
Page 1)

1 Brick wing 1 story high 22 ft. square in good repair

1 Kitchen of Brick 16 ft. square, 1 story

These dimensions match up with the surviving building and Sweet Air is certainly the house described in two advertisements inserted in the Baltimore papers by Benjamin Boyce in 1782 and 1783:

To be sold. A valuable tract containing 833 acres lying in Baltimore County, on the Fork of Gunpowder River, 18 miles from Baltimore Town, with an elegant brick house, 2 stories high, having a full cellar under it, a brick office adjoining, a good kitchen, and all other houses convenient for a farm, a pailed garden with brick cabbage house therein, etc (2)

To be sold... The improvements are, an elegant Brick House, two stories high, with two large rooms, and a passage on the lower floor, and three rooms and a passage above stairs, and cellar under the whole; a brick office adjoining the house, kitchen, store-house with cellar, and quarters (3)

Henry Carroll inherited Quinn from Henry Hill Carroll in 1804 and lived there through the early part of the century. The name of "Sweet Air" first appears in a family marriage record of 1812.

In 1819, Archbishop Ambrose Marechal dined at Mrs. Henry Carroll's, and the meeting is believed to have led to the foundation of the church of Saint John's, Long Green, three years later. (4)

Henry Carroll built a new house in 1823 on the tract Clynnmalira, some 4.7 miles away, another 5,000-acre tract he had inherited. He sold part of the Quinn tract and the Sweet Air mansion to Mrs. Elisa A. Morrison.

The Rev. George Morrison (Sr.) conducted a classical academy in the 40 by 20 foot log quarter house at Quinn. The school has been called both a "clerical academy" and a private school and its name given as Carroll Academy and as Long Green Academy. The Long Green post office was established here in 1832:

The original location was in the Long Green Academy, a private school operated by the Rev. George Morrison, a Presbyterian minister. The academy is said to have been in slave quarters adjacent to the Quinn mansion. The mansion is still standing today on Sweet Air Road east of Manor Road. The post office was named, quite logically, "Long Green Academy Post Office." No doubt, Mr. Morrison sold stamps and handled mail as the occasion demanded while he was conducting class. In 1836, Mr. Morrison resigned as postmaster on account of illness. (5)

The postmaster-schoolmaster had a son, George Morrison (II), who also became a Presbyterian minister. He re-established the academy and conducted it for two years but was then appointed president of Baltimore City College. (6)

The house passed 1899 from Esther Register Morrison to Gustav F. Seiler (NEM 243:42), and the 1918 Tax Ledger (District 10, f. 268) showed Gustav Seiler with;

134 a. on Sweet Air to Baldwin road ad. T. Jessop on n.
G. Eckhart on e.

98 a. tillable @ \$30	\$2,940
15 a. pasture @ \$45	675
14 a. wooded @ \$20	280
7 a. marsh @ \$15	105

House 22 x 50—22 x 22	1,502
Barn 50 x 40 \$120 Straw shed \$192	912
Other buildings	300

Mr. Seiler was operating as a dairy and the 1919 tax ladger showed him with 13 cows, a bull, 6 heifers, 3 steers, and 3 calves.

A photo of c. 1936 taken by the WPA Historic American Buildings Survey project showed that some strange evolutions had taken place at Sweet Air since a photograph from the Morrison period, c. 1850-70. The west wing (the office) had vanished, the east wing had grown one story higher, lost its end-chimney, and been given a patterned roof with an "S" monogram. The easternmost lean-to was gone. The Georgian windows had been replaced by single-sheet sash windows, and a three bay,

one-story front porch had appeared, supported by short concrete columns of the Ionic order, perched on supporting columns of rusticated concrete block.

In 1938, Gustav F. Seiler conveyed Sweet Air to Dr. Abercrombie (CWB Jr. 1003:412). The Sun had already forecast the improvements to come:

Plans for the restoration of Sweet Air, the old Henry Carroll mansion on Paper Mill and Noble Manor roads, in the Dulaney Valley section were announced yesterday.

This property, forming a part of Clymalira Manor, which comprised 5,000 acres and was surveyed in 1705, has been bought by Dr. and Mrs. Ronald T. Abercrombie for a country home. It contains about 140 acres and was acquired from Gustav Seiler and wife through Peyton B. Strobel & Co., brokers. The place is being operated as a dairy farm, and was purchased with stock and equipment. Built in the eighteenth century, the gable end has a continuous diamond glaze pattern brick. On one side is the figure eight pattern and the hall doorways have elaborate handcarved lintels.

The Abercrombie retained Bayard Turnbull to do a restoration to the Georgian, and Sweet Air was fitted with a classical portico, 9-on-9 windows. A coating of grey paint was removed from the brick to reveal the patterns worked into the walls. In 1938, the Abercrombies deeded the place to their daughter Mrs. McCord Sollenberger. The Sollenbergers opened the house on occasions to the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. Sometime in the 1930's, the State Roads Commission erected a road-side marker at Quinn and the original metal sign survivors.

Sweet Air passed in 1972 to Towson attorney Peter J. Woytowitz and wife.

NOTES:

1. Ronald T. Abercrombie, M.D., "'Sweet Air' or 'Quinn,' Baltimore County," Maryland Historical Magazine, 38 (March, 1943): 19-36. Most of the data on this landmarks report is drawn from Dr. Abercrombie's article.
2. Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser, September 10, 1782.
3. Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser, March 11, 1783.
4. Clarence V. Joerndt, St. Ignatius Church, Hickory and Its Missions (Bel Air, 1972), p. 273.
5. Elmer R. Haile, Jr., "Post Offices in the Long Green Area," History Trails, 10 (Autumn, 1975):1.
6. "Village of 'Sweet Air' Gets Its Name From Harry Carroll Mansion Built 1750," Jeffersonian, undated clipping of 1930's.
7. Sun, June 6, 1937 (clipping in Enoch Pratt Free Library query file).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ronald T. Abercrombie, M.D., "'Sweet Air' or 'Quinn,' Baltimore County."
Maryland Historical Magazine, 38 (March, 1943): 19-36.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

none

COUNTY

none

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John McGrain, *EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION*

ORGANIZATION

BALTIMORE COUNTY
 Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

July 1977

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

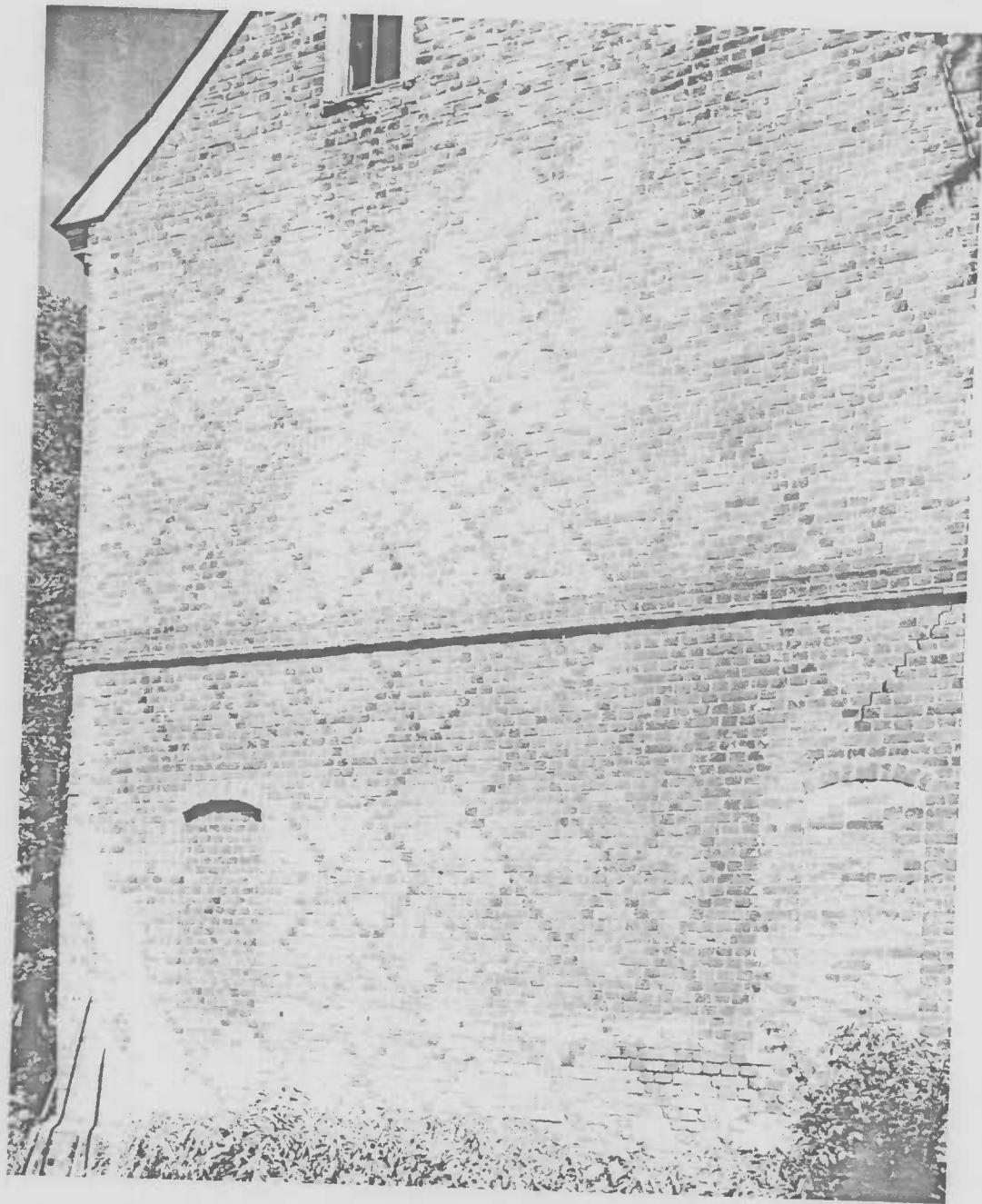


Fig. 253. The brick lozenge pattern on a gable-end at *Sweet Air* or *Quinn* in Baltimore County, extends from the ground to the ridge of the roof, as at *Genesar*. Two small windows have been filled in. Johnston, 1930s.